about the fate of a motorcycle battalion allegedly sent to Petrograd from the Northern Front, but I had heard nothing about it.

Meanwhile the wave of unrest reached Pskov. On the afternoon of November 7, a Military Revolutionary Committee was formed in the barracks. I called all the troops stationed in Pskov to a meeting in the court of the riding school. The soldiers, a crowd of some twenty thousand, were morose but orderly. I described the situation in Petrograd, stressing that the Constituent Assembly alone was authorized to decide matters concerning all Russia. By usurping its power, the Petrograd garrison was provoking civil war. To prevent this disaster and insure the convocation of the Constituent Assembly, the All-Russian Executive Committee had asked the army's support. In the Committee's name, I called on the front troops to join the task force that was ready to move to the capital.

"Those of you who do not join the task force," I concluded, "must continue the usual service without interfering with the movement of the echelons sent to the capital." What I hoped to obtain from the Pskov garrison was a pledge of neutrality that would give me time to organize the expedition. The response of the meeting showed that for most of the local soldiers neutrality seemed the easiest way out.

Then I received a new call from the War Ministry. Its building was still in the hands of the government, but the situation was desperate. Soldiers had dispersed the Council of the Republic. The Cabinet was in session in the Winter Palace, surrounded by mutineers. An onslaught on the palace was expected at any moment. The voice from the Ministry begged me to hurry the troops and asked, among other things, whether I knew where Kerensky was. He had left the Winter Palace as if to meet the motorcycle battalion and had disappeared.

At seven o'clock we received a telegram signed by the temporary President of the Government, Konovalov: "The Petrograd Soviet of Workers and Soldiers has declared the government deposed and has demanded that it relinquish power, threatening otherwise to shell the Winter Palace. The government will not yield and relies on the support of the people and the army." The Winter Palace was now in the plight of the Tauride Palace in the July days. Its guard had shrunk to a handful of military cadets and a company of women volunteers.

My office was crowded with delegates from the Cossack companies, asking for confirmation that they were being sent to Petrograd on the order of the All-Russian Executive Committee. Krasnov telephoned that some companies of his corps had boarded the railroad cars but the trains were not leaving. In some cases the locomotive